

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An amorphous silica particle having a maximum value of  $\Delta V_p/\Delta R_p$  is  $20 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  or more in ~~[[the]]~~ a pore distribution curve obtained by a benzene adsorption isotherm, wherein  $V_p$  is ~~[[the]]~~ a pore volume [ $\text{mm}^3/\text{g}$ ] and  $R_p$  is ~~[[the]]~~ a pore radius [nm]; and

a pore peak radius is from 20 nm to 100 nm when the  $\Delta V_p/\Delta R_p$  value is maximum.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 1, wherein the maximum value of  $\Delta V_p/\Delta R_p$  is  $30 \text{ mm}^3/\text{nm}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  or more in the pore distribution curve obtained by ~~[[a]]~~ the benzene adsorption isotherm, wherein  $V_p$  is the pore volume [ $\text{mm}^3/\text{g}$ ] and  $R_p$  is the pore radius [nm]; and

~~[[a]]~~ the pore peak radius is from 30 nm to 90 nm when the  $\Delta V_p/\Delta R_p$  value is maximum.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 1, wherein the amorphous silica particle has an oil absorption, and wherein the oil absorption ~~measured by JISK6217-4 (a carbon black for rubber basic characteristics)~~ is more than 260 ml/100g.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 3, wherein the oil absorption ~~measured by JISK6217-4 (a carbon black for rubber basic characteristics)~~ is more than 280 ml/ 100g.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 4, wherein the oil absorption ~~measured by JISK6217-4 (a carbon black for rubber basic characteristics)~~ is more than 300 ml/100g.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 5, wherein the oil absorption ~~measured by JISK6217-4 (a carbon black for rubber basic characteristics)~~ is more than 320 ml/100g.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ having an OI1 that is 9.5 min/100g or less.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The amorphous silica particle according to Claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ having an OI2 that is 1.2 or less.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method for producing chemical adsorbing agents, the method comprising:

blending the silica particles according to Claim 1 with a resin.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An adsorbent for pharmaceuticals and/or agrochemicals, comprising the amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A matting agent, comprising the amorphous silica particles according to Claim 1.